

## WILL TAKE OVER DUTCH MERCHANT VESSELS TO-DAY

America Will Not Further  
Delay Action Necessary  
to Procure Tonnage.

## XY-EIGHT CARGO CRAFT NOW IN AMERICAN PORTS

Shipping Board Will Control  
Ships Requisitioned by  
United States.

## OLLAND'S SENTIMENT DIVIDED

It of Press Vigorous in Denunciation,  
While Some Favor Program  
Enforced by Allies.

[By Associated Press.]  
WASHINGTON, March 18.—Plans for  
requisition of the Dutch shipping which  
will be acquired by the United States  
Great Britain, either through volun-  
tary agreement or by requisitioning,  
are going forward steadily today.  
The governments awaited the re-  
sponse of Holland to the demand that she  
cede to the terms of the contract  
which Germany blocked or suffered  
from all her tonnage in American  
ports.

Officials here said they had no in-  
tention of what the reply would be,  
either it would accept the allies' de-  
mand for a transfer of Dutch tonnage  
in American and British waters  
would endeavor to open further par-  
ties in an effort to satisfy both the  
allies and the Germans.

While declining to discuss the latter  
matter, officials plainly indicated  
such a course would not and favor  
it, because the voluntary agreement  
the transfer has been held up to re-  
cognize the principles of international law,  
they do not think a final decision  
will be delayed longer.

## TE-EIGHT DUTCH SHIPS IN AMERICAN PORTS

It was learned to-day that there are  
eight Dutch ships in ports of  
continental United States, their  
tonnage aggregating 470,000. Others  
in a tonnage of about 150,000 are in  
island possessions of this country,  
upward of 100,000 tons are in Brit-  
ish waters. All of the vessels are in  
excellent condition, and include some  
of the best merchant ships ever built,  
most of them being among the  
fastest cargo carriers afloat. It is  
thought that most of them will be put  
to carrying foodstuffs, the cargoes be-  
lieved by the ship-control com-  
mittee.

Argues which some of the ships  
loaded provide one of the prob-  
lems yet to be decided by American  
officials, who declined to say whether  
ships would be allowed to proceed  
to the American flag or would have  
unloaded and take other goods.

Operation of the ships will be un-  
der control of the Shipping Board. An-  
nouncement of the trade to which they  
be put has been withheld, but it  
understood that most of them will  
be used under the American flag and  
equally armed to carry food through  
war zone to the allies.

## AS SOON AS WORD IS RECEIVED HERE OF LAND'S DECISION THE NAVY DEPARTMENT WILL PUT MEN ON BOARD THE VESSELS TO TAKE FORMAL POSSESSION. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THE NAVY DEPARTMENT WILL PROVIDE SUFFICIENT AMERICAN SAIL- ING, POSSIBLY FROM THE NAVAL RESERVE, TO SUPPLY THE CREWS TO BE MADE UP OF DUTCH SAILORS.

## WSPAPER SAYS AFFIRMATIVE ANSWER IS IMPOSSIBLE

[By Associated Press.]  
HAGUE, Saturday, March 16.—  
A humble request to Holland to give an  
affirmative answer to the entente's  
proposal concerning Dutch ships, says  
Nieuwe Courant.

It is an act of violence," it adds,  
which we are subjected by the  
powers of the ocean, and nothing makes  
so bitter as the attempt being made  
to use it on the so-called rule of in-  
ternational law—the antiquated and  
unjust law which is in no wise appli-  
cable here."

## IS SUCH MISUSE OF POWER WILL NOT BE FORGOTTEN

MISTRIDAM, March 16.—Discussing  
Dutch shipping question, the Tyd-  
s says: "We shall have to acquiesce, but  
through misuse of power will not be  
gotten by our people."

## AN ARTICLE DENOUNCING THE ALLIES HANDLED AS FOLLOWS:

We cannot think what our govern-  
ment will do. Will it publish a pro-  
claiming to give its approval to  
the policy, and leave the matter as it is,  
or will it make the best of a bad job  
and make an exchange for what  
taken away? If it is not exchanged,  
it request the ministers of these  
alien powers to pack their trunks  
and depart? We should not lose much  
by it. We do not know what the  
government will do, and would not  
advise it to. As such a moment  
must be left to the government's  
decision to take that decision which  
least harmful to the country and  
people."

(Continued on Second Page.)

## Plan on Book of Pastor Russell

[By Associated Press.]  
WASHINGTON, March 18.—Be-  
cause "The Finished Mystery," a  
Bible study textbook, described pas-  
sionately "as a certain delusion," and  
"a narrow-minded hatred of other  
peoples," and was "a work of Satan,"  
distribution of the book was  
forbidden to-day by the Department  
of Justice, acting under the espionage  
act.

Thousands of copies of the book  
have been seized in many States,  
but it was not until to-day that the  
department announced its decision  
to prohibit its distribution. Dis-  
trict attorneys were notified to  
prosecute any dealers or other per-  
sons selling or offering the book for  
sale or for distribution.

The book purports to be the  
posthumous work of the late Pastor  
Charles Taze Russell.

## RECRUITS WILL SOON ARRIVE AT CAMP LEE

Approximately 10,000 Will Reach  
Petersburg Five Days Begin-  
ning March 29.

## VIRGINIA'S QUOTA IS 2,178

First Colored Commissioned Officer,  
Chaplain, Graduate of Fiske and  
Harvard, in Cantonment—Colonel  
Waldron Conducts Instruction.

## [Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

CAMP LEE, March 18.—Information  
received at division headquarters to-  
day indicated that 5,955 men will be  
forwarded to Camp Lee in a five-day  
period, beginning March 29. These men  
are among the first to move to the can-  
tonments of the country on the appor-  
tionment that the various States are  
due on the second draft. Virginia's  
quota in this allotment of the second  
draft is 2,178. These will be equally  
apportioned among the various local  
boards of the State.

Pennsylvania will send 5,612 men to  
the camp in this period from that sec-  
tion of the State that has forwarded its  
allotments on the first draft to the  
camp and 684 from that section of the  
State that has previously forwarded its  
men to Camp Sherman, at Chillicothe,  
Ohio.

West Virginia's apportionment, ac-  
cording to the information from the  
provost-marshal-general's office, is  
1,514.

## THESE MEN WILL FIRST BE ASSIGNED TO THE DEPUTY BRIGADE.

## OFFICERS OF TWO BRIGADES LEARNING "MINOR TACTICS"

Field officers of the One Hundred and  
Fifty-ninth and One Hundred and Six-  
tieth Infantry Brigades are receiving  
a course of instruction in minor tactics  
under the direction of Lieutenant-Colonel  
W. H. Waldron, chief of staff. The  
class was inaugurated to-day, and will  
extend through the week. The instruc-  
tion work is being conducted by a  
series of tactical walks covering the  
various subjects included in the domain  
of minor tactics, including advance  
guard, outposts, patrolling, flank guards  
and the selection of defensive posi-  
tions.

Lieutenant-Colonel Waldron is one of  
the foremost authorities on the subject  
of "Minor Tactics in the Army."

Chaplain Clifford L. Miller reported  
for duty to-day, and has been assigned  
with the Five Hundred and Tenth  
(negro) Service Battalion. He is the  
first and only negro with a commission  
who has been forwarded to this camp  
for duty. He is a first lieutenant.

Lieutenant Miller is a native of Ten-  
nessee. He holds the bachelor of arts  
degree from Fiske University and  
bachelor of divinity degree from Har-  
vard University. After graduating from  
Harvard, he returned to the South to  
work among the members of his race.  
He reports to Camp Lee from Tal-  
ladesha, Ala., where he was pastor of  
a Congregationalist church. There are  
several thousand negro soldiers at the  
camp, and a negro chaplain has an ex-  
cellent field for service.

## VIRGINIANS SALUTE UNIFORM HE WEARS

In passing this lieutenant, white sol-  
diers will, of course, be required to sal-  
ute. Your correspondent followed him  
through the Virginia regiments to-day,  
and when Virginia soldiers met him  
face to face they saluted the uniform  
that he wore. In a recent interview  
concerning the necessity of saluting  
negro officers, Major-General Cronkhite  
said:

"I've met some junior officers who  
said they weren't keen on saluting  
negro officers. They wouldn't feel that  
way if they understood the spirit of the  
salute. If one of them came from a  
town where they were an old negro  
character, one of those fellows who do  
odd jobs around and is known to  
everybody, he'd at least nod his head  
and say 'Howdy, uncle.' Now suppose,  
through some freak of nature, this old  
negro should be transplanted in an  
officer's uniform, the salute would be  
merely saying to him, 'Howdy, uncle,'  
in a military way."

## SHORTAGE OF QUININE CAUSES ITS USE RESTRICTED

The scarcity of quinine in the nation  
is being felt at the camp. Orders  
have been issued that it shall only be  
used for the treatment of malaria, and  
that malaria shall be recorded as  
malaria only when the diagnosis of  
the physician has been confirmed by  
microscopic examination.

Beginning Wednesday night, Colonel  
E. D. Giles, general staff, British army,  
will deliver a series of eight lectures  
to the brigade and regimental com-  
manders, general staff officers, brigade  
adjutants and understudies.

## AMERICAN AIRMEN DEVELOP RAPIDLY

Scenes at Aviation Camp in  
France Inspire Visitors  
From States.

## BAKER IS GATHERING FACTS

Makes Decisions on Ground,  
Where Promptness Is Essen-  
tial to Secure Results.

## [By Associated Press.]

ON BOARD SECRETARY BAKER'S  
SPECIAL TRAIN IN FRANCE, Satur-  
day, March 16.—Newton D. Baker, the  
American Secretary of War, is mak-  
ing important decisions in France  
upon such questions as, in his judg-  
ment, require immediate action. He is  
gathering knowledge for future use  
upon many aspects of the situation of  
the American army, but problems  
pressing for a settlement he solves  
on the spot.

Thus, to-day in the headquarters of  
one of the American aviation centers,  
Secretary Baker inquired if all of the  
host of aviators sent first from Amer-  
ica were first to complete their train-  
ing in France, and if all of them had  
been commissioned. The chief of  
aviation told the secretary that all of  
them had not yet, because of reasons  
which he explained, had a chance to  
take their final training.

The secretary went into the subject.  
He directed at the conclusion of the  
inquiry, with General Pershing's ap-  
proval, that aviators so delayed should  
have their commissions when they  
were ready for them dated ahead of  
those issued in America to men who  
had entered the service later, because  
the men had a right to their priority.

## HUNDRED MACHINES IN AIR TO GREET BAKER

When the secretary's train came into  
the aviation region the sky was darkly  
overcast, and the clouds were of a  
blue-gray color, which the aviation ob-  
servers say constitutes the finest back-  
ground for seeing air work. Many  
monoplanes and biplanes awaited the  
secretary's arrival upon the field; then,  
with a rush, one after another took the  
air, until toward the end of the morn-  
ing a hundred machines were in flight,  
and every machine was driven by an  
American. Individual aviators prac-  
ticed maneuvers used in combat, such  
as reversing the direction of the flight  
by turning edgewise upon one wing,  
or spinning in nose dives. Then there  
were evolutions in flight formation of  
fives, after that in squadrons of fifteen.

"With all the machines in the air,"  
remarked a French officer, "we are no  
more than a tenth of what America  
has in this one school. You will soon  
have no more need for French in-  
struction. We have shown everything  
we know, and your young men have  
taken to the art with astonishing fa-  
cility, as well as audacity, nerve and  
resource. The danger and difficulties  
fascinate and inspire them. I think it  
must be what you call the sporting  
spirit."

## AMERICAN COLLEGE MEN ARE THE PLAYERS

"Yes," said one of Mr. Baker's party,  
"so many of these men are direct from  
our colleges and universities. They  
are football and baseball players."

Secretary Baker discussed with vari-  
ous of the aviators themselves the  
difference between the machines. He  
brought to the subject much knowl-  
edge of detail and unvaried interest.  
He spent hours talking with the men  
and examining with them the types of  
machines, some of which he saw for  
the first time.

The closing incident of the morn-  
ing's air training was a combat and  
the escape of one plane when attacked.  
The secretary watched with intense  
interest. He then visited the machine  
shops and setting-up shops and the  
storage buildings. He had explained  
to him the school organizations, which  
include eight classes, each with a sepa-  
rate camp. Sharp sporting rivalry  
exists among them.

## AMERICA'S AVIATION ALREADY POWERFUL

The American aviation effort is al-  
ready a powerful and varied one. It  
combines the best to be found in the French  
and British service, in addition to develop-  
ments, and that an organ that has  
been created capable of such finely  
tempered air battalions.

The aviation school in France has  
reached 57 per cent of its expected  
efficiency. Graduating classes are  
turned out with steady regularity be-  
cause of the speed with which the stu-  
dents reach the level of competent air-  
men. But this depends, of course, upon  
the amount of flying, which has been  
uncommonly abundant this spring.

## TO TRY CRENSHAW AGAIN

Young Man Charged With Burning  
Chemical Laboratory in  
Court To-Day.

## [Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va., March  
18.—To-morrow morning the second  
trial of S. Dabney Crenshaw, IV, of  
Richmond, under two indictments in  
connection with the burning of the  
chemical laboratory at the University  
of Virginia in January, 1917, will be  
commenced in the Circuit Court be-  
fore Judge John W. Fishburne. Sheriff  
C. M. Thomas and his deputies have  
summoned twenty veniremen to ap-  
pear, and both sides are in readiness to  
go into the trial. Judge R. T. W. Duke,  
Jr., will appear for the Commonwealth,  
and C. W. Allen and W. H. Walsh, of  
the local bar, are associated with  
Robert S. Scott, of Richmond, in the  
defense.

At the six-day trial last November  
on the indictment charging the larceny  
of platinum and other articles from the  
laboratory, a hung jury resulted.

## ASSEMBLY RECEIVES SPECIAL MESSAGES

Governor Makes Important Rec-  
ommendations on Prohibition  
and Other Measures.

## BOTH BRANCHES BEGIN WORK

Believe "Deficit" Is Caused by  
Misunderstanding, and Ex-  
pect Agreement To-Day.

## [By Associated Press.]

It being generally understood that  
the "deficit" of \$1,257,860 is an appar-  
ition due to disregard of the special  
5-cent levy intended to care, to a large  
extent, for the appropriations for roads,  
schools and Catawba, as set forth in  
the general appropriation bill and in-  
advertently placed in toto in the ag-  
gregate, thus appearing as a duplica-  
tion of funds for these purposes, it is  
believed that the General Assembly  
will in short order sign a peace treaty  
with Governor Davis, and be able to  
return home without an extended or  
extra session. The Senate Finance  
Committee and the House Committee  
on Appropriations, after sitting in ses-  
sion the greater part of the day, and  
after a night conference with the Gov-  
ernor and the State Auditor, will re-  
port back this morning at 10 o'clock  
in the Senate and 11 o'clock in the  
House with what is believed to be an  
understanding agreeable to all con-  
cerned.

With almost every member of the  
General Assembly in his seat yesterday  
at noon and the galleries packed full,  
both the House and the Senate received  
the messages from the Governor,  
who has recommended the elimination  
of \$1,257,860 from the appropriation  
bill, \$1,000,000 from the prohibition ap-  
propriation; from the workmen's com-  
pensation bill the paid commission, and  
the insertion in the general budget of  
the civil contingent fund the sum of  
\$5,000 a year, besides some other  
minor recommendations. Almost im-  
mediately the recess began over resolu-  
tions regarding the disposition of  
the messages and the advisability of  
inviting the Governor to appear before  
the Assembly and amplify his reasons  
for trimming down the appropriations  
made by the conference committee of  
the two Houses, and passed by the  
General Assembly on Sunday morning  
a week ago.

## HOUSE REQUESTS GOVERNOR TO SUBMIT WRITTEN EVIDENCE

Delegate Brewer moved that the  
communications be referred to the Ap-  
propriations Committee. Delegate  
Bowles then offered a resolution re-  
questing the Governor to appear be-  
fore the House and explain in detail  
why he recommended certain re-  
ductions. The resolution was prompt-  
ly rejected. Then Delegate Willis of-  
fered a resolution, which was adopted,  
the resolution reading:

"Whereas the Appropriations Com-  
mittee, after a careful hearing of the  
evidence relating to the various items  
contained in the appropriation bill, fixed  
the amounts set forth in the bill, and  
whereas the General Assembly is con-  
vinced that the Governor of Virginia  
would not recommend change of  
such items without having heard evi-  
dence upon which to base his recom-  
mendations; now, therefore, be it re-  
solved by the House and the Senate,  
that the Governor be requested to  
submit in writing the evidence upon  
which he bases his recommendations in  
changes enumerated."

The rule by which the resolution  
was adopted followed:

Ayes—Adams, Bailey, Beattie, Block,  
Bochen, Brewer, Brown (J. S.), Buck,  
Burke, Carner, Carrington, Carter,  
Cato, Cherry, Clement, Cook, Davis,  
Deans, Dodson, Gilliam, Goodwin, Hen-  
ley, Hobbs, Hudgins, Hundley, Hunter,  
Hunter, Jones, Mann, McNutt, Miller,  
Murray, Musgrave, Owen, Pitts, Price,  
Randall, Ramsey, Reed, Rolston,  
Shackelford, Smith, Smith, Smoot,  
Stuart, Stubbs (J. N.), Turner, Walton,  
and Willis—49.

Nays—Anderson, Anderson, Baker,  
Bowles, Brown (J. C.), Burman, Chase,  
Cummings, Cornett, Crockett, Dick-  
son, Dillard, Elam, Fitzhugh, Flannagan,  
Forrester, Fuller, Gilmer, Gordon,  
Hall (W. C.), Harman, Horton, Mar-  
shall, Martin, Meete, Noland, Norris,  
Omps, Pence, Reed, Russell, Shumate,  
Sproul, Stant, Stephenson, Stubbs (R. H.),  
Taylor, Williams, Winston, and  
Houston—40.

## REFUSES TO PASS BY RESOLUTION TO GOVERNOR

By virtually the same vote, the  
House refused to pass by the resolution.  
It then refused to reconsider the  
vote adopting the resolution. The mo-  
tion to reconsider was made by Fele-  
gate Brewer, chairman of the Ap-  
propriations Committee, and Dele-  
gate William A. Anderson ad-  
dressed himself to the motion,  
but without successful result. Among  
those favoring the resolution were  
Delegates Willis, Reed, Davis and  
Bochen. Those speaking in opposition  
to it were Delegates William A. An-  
derson, Wilbur Hall, Lindsay Gordon,  
Stephenson, R. A. Anderson, Norris and  
Major Stubbs.

The resolution was opposed on the  
ground of being unparliamentary, dis-  
respectful, temporizing and time-kill-  
ing, or of no avail. On the other hand,  
Delegate Willis, stating that no dis-  
respect or offense was meant, assumed  
that the Governor had not made the  
recommendations as a mere matter of  
opinion, and that as he must have evi-  
dence the Finance Committee of the  
Assembly had not, he was unwilling to  
vote to cripple any institution without  
knowing the executive's reasons for  
the sharp use of the knife as recom-  
mended, no matter how great his re-  
spect for the Governor. The House  
cheered loudly when Delegate Willis  
concluded.

Delegate Smith, of Dinwiddie, moved  
to adjourn sine die. The Speaker  
ruled the motion to be out of order.

(Continued on Third Page.)

## Governor Wants the State to Live Within Its Income

Governor Davis yesterday trans-  
mitted to the adjourned session of  
the General Assembly a series of  
messages recommending that more  
than \$1,000,000 be trimmed from the  
general appropriation bill to pre-  
vent a shortage in the State treasury;  
that the appropriation for the  
office of the prohibition commis-  
sioner be reduced; that the salaried  
commission under the workmen's  
compensation law be eliminated,  
and that changes be made in the act  
by which the State takes over the  
Valley Turnpike. He also returned,  
with his veto, three Senate bills  
which were exact duplicates of  
House bills already passed and  
signed.

Both houses met at noon, with  
practically the entire membership  
in their seats, there having been  
a general response to the call for a  
quorum. Prolonged joint sessions  
were held yesterday afternoon and  
last night by the committees on  
Appropriations and Finance, and  
after conference with the Governor,  
it was stated that an agreement  
was in sight, and that a probable  
adjournment could be reached in a  
day or two.

In his message on the prohibition  
bill the Governor gives a striking  
review of the machinery for the en-  
forcement of "dry" laws in each  
State which has adopted prohibition,

## WOULD MAKE DRASTIC CUT IN APPROPRIATIONS

Reductions in General Bill Recom-  
mended by Governor Davis Ag-  
gregate \$1,257,860.

## ALLOTMENTS OVER REVENUES

Department Appropriations Are Re-  
duced and Salary Advances Dis-  
approved Straight Through Bill.  
Hopes to Avoid Embarrassment.

Reductions in the general appropria-  
tion bill aggregating \$1,257,860 were  
recommended to the Virginia General  
Assembly yesterday by Governor West-  
moreland Davis, in a special message  
to that body at noon. For several days  
the Governor had been closeted in his  
private offices with a corps of clerks  
and adding machines, checking the  
measure. His recommendations for  
numerous changes was the result.

Straight through the measure the  
Governor recommends reductions. Ap-  
propriations to departments are re-  
duced and salary increases are disap-  
proved in practically every instance.  
The measure adopted by the General  
Assembly carried appropriations of  
\$2,620,000, while estimates made by  
the State Auditor of Public Accounts  
place the probable revenues for the  
next two years at \$1,937,571. This  
leaves a deficit of \$1,172,779, and  
resulted in the reductions recommended  
by the Governor.

## APPROPRIATION BILL EXCEEDS ESTIMATED REVENUES

The reductions recommended by the  
Governor are far-reaching, and affect  
practically all State departments.

His message is as follows:

House bill No. 357—I approve the  
general purposes of this bill, but find  
that it exceeds the estimated revenue  
of the State for the period named, as  
furnished by the Auditor of Public  
Accounts, who, under date of March  
4, 1918, addressed to the chairman of  
the Senate Finance Committee a letter  
estimating the revenue of the State,  
including surplus now in hand, for the  
next two years at \$1,937,571.50. This  
bill in the aggregate amounts to \$2,620,000, besides the provision for past  
years' deficits amounting to \$150,000,  
which, allowing a working balance in  
treasury of \$200,000, is \$1,172,779.21  
in excess of what may reasonably be ex-  
pected to be the State's revenue for  
the ensuing two years.

After careful consideration of each  
item therein, I recommend reductions  
in this appropriation bill of \$1,257,860,  
as set forth in detail herein.

## REGRETS REVENUES PREVENT ALLOTMENTS ALREADY MADE

Again, the proposed appropriations  
for individuals, institutions and pur-  
poses, are frequently so stated as a  
whole in the bill as not to allow me  
to examine all the items thereof. While  
this is no doubt done inadvertently, it  
really precludes the exercise by the  
executive of the duty expressly pre-  
scribed by the Constitution, of ex-  
amining, and in his discretion disallow-  
ing, items of an appropriation bill;  
in order to disallow the increased sums  
added to an item it would be necessary  
to disallow the whole item itself. This  
method of budget making might cre-  
ate a situation that would embarrass  
some State department, as in order  
to reject a part of the appropriation  
it might be necessary to disallow the  
whole item.

It is to be regretted that the reve-  
nue of the State will not permit it to  
comply with all the demands upon the  
treasury, but it is a safe business prin-  
ciple, especially applicable at this time  
when the resources of the State should  
be conserved, that the State, like the  
individual, should live within its in-  
come. I am returning the bill with  
the hope that, in a spirit of co-opera-  
tion and for the public welfare, the  
General Assembly may move satisfac-  
torily this problem.

## DETAILED STATEMENT OF REDUCTIONS RECOMMENDED

For fiscal year ending February 1,  
1919, page 1, under the heading Attor-  
ney-General, in line 2, strike out the  
words "three thousand" and insert in  
lieu thereof the words "twenty-five  
hundred" and strike out the figures

(Continued on Sixth Page.)

## ALLIES MAINTAIN LINES FROM SEA TO SWITZERLAND

May Start Offensive of  
Their Own at Various  
Points on Front.

## SPIRITED ENCOUNTERS ALONG MANY SECTORS

Artillery Bombardment Espe-  
cially Severe in Vosges  
Mountain Region.

## BELGIAN ARMY COMES BACK

Heavy German Guns Batter Ameri-  
can Positions With Shells  
of Large Caliber.

## [By Associated Press.]

As the allied world has, day after  
day, read the official reports from the  
allied and Teuton War Offices in the  
hope that some inkling of the real sit-  
uation would present itself, the reali-  
zation has come home that the Ameri-  
cans, French, British, Belgians and  
Portuguese troops are maintaining  
their control over the front running  
from the North Sea to Switzerland.  
Artillery fire, at some points growing  
in intensity, is reported, but the allies  
have held their own, and their raiding  
parties are everywhere busy in the  
enemy's trenches. The long-expected  
and confidently awaited German drive  
has not materialized, and the allies  
threaten to start an offensive of their  
own at various points against the Teu-  
tonic legions.

There is hardly a sector on the  
western battle line which is not being  
marked by spirited actions, but Ver-  
dun and the Vosges regions are appar-  
ently storm centers where big events  
may develop. At Verdun the opposing  
artilleries have been thundering for  
several days, and on Monday the chorus  
of the guns was kept up, especially on  
the right bank of the Meuse.

In the Vosges Mountains the artill-  
ery fighting is reported to be very  
heavy, although no infantry actions  
have been mentioned in the War Office  
statements issued at Paris and Berlin.

## BELGIAN ARMY TAKES OVER IMPORTANT SECTOR

One of the most encouraging features  
of the war news may be found in the  
fact that the Belgian army, reorgan-  
ized and ready for battle, has taken over  
the important coast sector in Flanders.  
This part of the western front has heret-  
ofore been held by the French, al-  
though British troops have made their  
appearance there at various periods.  
That the Belgian army, which is said  
to be excellent in morale, has freed  
the French and British forces for action  
elsewhere on the front demonstrates  
that the past year has been one of  
constructive work on the part of the  
Belgian and allied army staffs. The  
latest official report said that attacks  
by German shock troops have been  
repulsed by the Belgians.

Heavy guns are battering the Ameri-  
can sectors along the front, and shells  
of large caliber have fallen. Here,  
however, the American guns have re-  
plied with good effect, and the excel-  
lent weather of the past few days has  
given American airmen an opportunity  
to take pictures of the terrain back of  
the German trenches. The war office  
stated preparatory to another gas raid  
on the Americans has been destroyed  
by American artillery fire, while Ameri-  
can raiding parties, following out their  
traditional Indian fighting tactics, have  
kept absolute control of the territory  
between the hostile lines.

## TEUTONS CONTINUE INVASION OF RUSSIA

In spite of the fact that the At-  
lantic Congress of Soviets has ratified  
the treaty of peace forced by the  
Germans at Brest Litovsk, the ad-  
vance of the Teutons, especially in  
Southern Ukraine, continues. In South-  
ern Ukraine the capture of the im-  
portant city of Nikolayev, where vast  
stores of grain were reported to have  
been piled up, has been officially an-  
nounced by the Germans, who have al-  
lowed up their aggressive tactics in  
the Provinces of Tchernigov and Orël,  
in the southern central regions of  
Russia.

Action by Japan in Siberia is still  
held in abeyance, and there is no in-  
dication of what may be done there. Re-  
ports from Siberia continue to be  
grave. Liberated German prisoners of  
war are said to be co-operating with  
the Bolshevik leaders and on March 1  
participated in a battle with the forces  
led by General Semenov, the non-Bol-  
shevick leader